

Minutes of DAAC Meeting

Attendance

DAAC members present were: Seren Derin, Chair; Irene Barrelet, Clerk; Gerry Weiss; Jim MacRostie; Dana Goddard; and Joan Swift;

Others present were: Tory Dixon; Nathaniel Malloy, DAAC staff liaison.

Absent: Joe Tringali, Vice-chair

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Derin called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Gazette published a letter from Ms. Barrelet commending the Town Manager's Office for their quick response to painters blocking Town Hall's accessible entrance by scheduling the painting on weekends when Town offices are closed.

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously (7-0) as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest/ Open Meeting Law

Mr. Malloy summarized the recent changes in the Open Meeting Law, explaining that there are not significant changes as far as the committee members are concerned. However, the changes clarified (emphasized) that emails between members can be considered deliberation, and therefore violate the Open Meeting Law.

Town Common—Temporary Sidewalk

Mr. Malloy reported that the problem has been resolved—the sidewalk is gently sloped with a crushed stone surface, a temporary crosswalk has been installed across Boltwood Avenue, and the parking space near the 'new' curb cut is closed with the meter removed. Mr. MacRostie explained that he tried the path with a walker and found it to be a suitable surface.

New ADA regulations

The committee discussed the new regulations and noted a lack of regulations governing accessible furniture and amenities in either private accommodations (hotels) or public venues.

Other

Amherst Cinema

Ms. Derin recently attended a movie at Amherst Cinema and had to ask a theater employee to move heavy looking chairs in the HP seating area before she could access the space. She did not see an HP symbol designating the space or companion seating. Ms. Derin will follow up with Amherst Cinema regarding their policy for accessible seating.

Boltwood Walk—Parking and Walkways

Ms. Derin reported that an elderly woman recently fell near Rao's and broke her femur as she was stepping up onto the curb from the parking lot. The accident raised issues whether the location of the accident is Town property or private property. The committee agreed that cutting down all the trees to fix the heaving pavers would present another problem and challenge. The committee then listed other problematic sidewalks in the area:

- Ramp near Panda East and Unitarian Church
- Sidewalk on south side of Kendrick Avenue

OLD BUSINESS

Jones Library Parking—Discussion with Trustees

Committee members attended a trustees meeting in early July, and were pleased with the opportunity to be involved with decision-making process regarding the future of handicapped parking at the Jones Library. Continuing the discussion, the DAAC voted unanimously (6-0) (GW moved and IB seconded) to send the following recommendations to the Library Trustees:

- ~ There should be no handicapped parking on Amity Street, especially for the safety of pedestrians and those who would use the parking, because of the required dimensional standards, and access from the street to the library is difficult with significant elevation change in a short distance.
- ~ Retain the two existing handicapped parking spaces in the same place in the parking lot, making them van accessible with a shared 8 ft. center unloading aisle.
- ~ Remove the grass median between the parking lot and walkway as this will widen the parking lot to accommodate vans and other large vehicles.
- ~ The handicapped parking in the CVS lot should not be included with the handicapped parking spaces for library patrons.
- ~ Parking lot improvement plans should be prepared and approved by the Town Engineer and/or other certified engineers.

ITD—Amendments to Variance Application

The Committee reviewed the amendments to ITD's application to the Architectural Access Board (AAB), and voted unanimously (6-0) (JS moved and GW seconded) to approve the following amendments to ITD's application:

1. The electric lift to the porch will have a manual crank or battery backup in case electricity fails.
2. The lift will be available for public use.
3. The lift will be operable by a person in a wheelchair, without assistance.
4. A roof will be provided over the entry turnaround to the lift and the lift itself.
5. Sprinklers will be installed on the porch by the driveway and on the formal entry porch.
6. A pocket door will be added between the wheelchair-accessible bedroom and bathroom.
7. ITD House Policy will specify that the accessible bathroom is primarily for the use of the occupants of the accessible bedroom. This policy will be posted on the bathroom door.
8. The island in the kitchen will be replaced by an island on wheels and/or a wheelchair-accessible countertop in the breakfast nook.
9. ITD House Policy will specify that all social/group/community activities take place only on the accessible floor, which is the first floor.

Curb Cuts and Walk Signals (Kellogg and North Pleasant)

The DAAC voted unanimously (6-0) (GW moved and IB seconded) to amend the Town's Transition Plan as necessary and to recommend to the Community Development Committee that \$26,170 from the FY2009 CDBG grant award be used to install audible crossing signals at the following intersections:

DAAC Priority Intersections - Installation of Audible Signals					
			Cost		
Intersection	Priority Level	# of Audible Signals	Equipment	Labor	
North Pleasant Street-Kellogg Avenue	1	3	\$ 1,710.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,710.00
Main-Dickinson-High	2	5	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,350.00
East Pleasant Street-Triangle Street	3	4	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,280.00
South Pleasant Street-Route 9	4	5	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,350.00
Southeast Street-Route 9	5	4	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,280.00
North Pleasant Street-Pine/Meadow Street	6	4	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,280.00
Main Street-Southeast Street	7	6	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,920.00
			\$ 17,670.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$26,170.00

Atkins Corner

The committee asked whether a representative from the Massachusetts Office on Disability would be able to conduct a site visit to evaluate the two roundabouts.

Materials Distributed at Meeting (available upon request in the Planning Department at Town Hall)

Agenda
July 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Summary of Open Meeting Law
ITD amendment letter to the AAB
Email announcing revised ADA regulations

Next Meeting(s)

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, October 12, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 9, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 7, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison